

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                   1. A video-on-demand system for use with personal computers  
2 connected to the Internet, the system comprising:  
3                   a cable television network;  
4                   content provider Internet websites which list videos available for  
5 delivery from third party content providers to subscribers of a cable television  
6 service provider, wherein the subscribers use the personal computers to select  
7 videos from the content provider websites for delivery to the subscribers; and  
8                   televisions associated with the subscribers and connected to the cable  
9 television service provider via the cable television network;  
10                  wherein the content providers and the cable television service  
11 provider are in communication with one another in order for the cable television  
12 service provider to receive the selected videos from the content providers;  
13                  wherein the cable television service provider delivers the selected  
14 videos to the televisions via the cable television network for the subscribers to view  
15 on the televisions.

1                   2. The system of claim 1 wherein:  
2                   the cable television service provider delivers the selected videos by  
3 streaming the selected videos to the televisions via the cable television network  
4 immediately after the subscribers have selected the videos.

1                   3. The system of claim 1 wherein:  
2                   the cable television service provider stores the selected videos on a  
3 video server for subsequent delivery from the video server to the televisions via the  
4 cable television network.

1                   4. The system of claim 1 wherein:  
2                   the cable television service provider delivers the selected videos to  
3 video recorders associated with the televisions via the cable television network for  
4 the subscribers to subsequently view on the televisions.

1                   5. The system of claim 1 wherein:  
2                   the subscribers perform key word searches using the personal  
3 computers in order to select videos from the content provider websites for delivery  
4 to the subscribers.

1                   6. The system of claim 1 wherein:  
2                   the subscribers use the personal computers to browse categories listed  
3 in the content provider websites in order to select videos from the content provider  
4 websites for delivery to the subscribers.

1                   7. The system of claim 1 wherein:  
2                   the subscribers provide identification to the content providers when  
3 selecting videos from the content providers;  
4                   wherein the content providers provide the identification along with  
5 the selected videos to the cable television service provider;  
6                   wherein the cable television service provider uses the identification  
7 in order to deliver the selected videos to the televisions via the cable television  
8 network.

1                   8. The system of claim 1 wherein:  
2                   the content providers provide descriptive information identifying the  
3 selected videos along with the selected videos to the cable television service provider  
4 for use by the cable television service provider.

1                   9. The system of claim 1 wherein:  
2                   the cable television service provider bills the subscribers for the  
3 selected videos on behalf of the content providers.

1                   10. The system of claim 1 wherein:  
2                   the subscribers have subscriptions with the cable television service  
3 provider to select videos from the content provider websites for delivery to the  
4 subscribers, wherein the cable television service provider bills the subscribers for  
5 the subscriptions.

1                   11. The system of claim 1 wherein:  
2                   the personal computers and the televisions are remote from one  
3 another and are in indirect communication with one another via the Internet and the  
4 cable television network.

1                   12. The system of claim 1 further comprising:  
2                   a cable television service provider Internet website, wherein the  
3 subscribers use the personal computers to register video interest profiles on the cable  
4 television service provider website;  
5                   wherein the content providers communicate information to the cable  
6 television service provider regarding videos available for delivery from the content  
7 providers to the subscribers;  
8                   wherein the cable television service provider compares the  
9 information regarding the available videos with the video interest profiles;  
10                  wherein the cable television service provider sends emails to the  
11 subscribers containing information regarding the available videos which correspond  
12 to the video interest profiles.

1                   13. The system of claim 12 wherein:  
2                   the subscribers use the personal computers to transmit delivery  
3 requests to the content providers via the Internet for videos identified in the emails;  
4                   wherein in response to the requests, the cable television service  
5 provider receives the requested videos from the content providers and then delivers  
6 the requested videos to the televisions via the cable television network for the  
7 subscribers to view on the televisions.

1                   14. The system of claim 1 wherein:  
2                   the subscribers use the personal computers to register video interest  
3 profiles on the content provider websites;  
4                   wherein the content providers sends emails to the subscribers  
5 regarding videos which correspond to the video interest profiles and which are  
6 available for delivery from the content providers to the subscribers.

1                   15. The system of claim 14 wherein:  
2                   the subscribers use the personal computers to transmit delivery  
3 requests to the content providers via the Internet for videos identified in the emails;  
4                   wherein in response to the requests, the cable television service  
5 provider receives the requested videos from the content providers and then delivers  
6 the requested videos to the televisions via the cable television network for the  
7 subscribers to view on the televisions.

1                   16. A video-on-demand system for use with a personal computer  
2 connected to the Internet, the system comprising:  
3                   a cable television network;  
4                   a content provider Internet website, wherein the content provider  
5 website lists videos available for delivery from a third party content provider to a  
6 subscriber of a cable television service provider, wherein the subscriber uses the  
7 personal computer to select a video from the content provider website for delivery  
8 to the subscriber; and  
9                   a television associated with the subscriber and connected to the cable  
10 television service provider via the cable television network;  
11                  wherein the content provider and the cable television service provider  
12 are in communication with one another in order for the cable television service  
13 provider to receive the selected video from the content provider;  
14                  wherein the cable television service provider delivers the selected  
15 video to the television via the cable television network for the subscriber to view on  
16 the television.

1                   17. The system of claim 16 wherein:  
2                   the cable television service provider delivers the selected video by  
3 streaming the selected video to the television via the cable television network  
4 immediately after the subscriber has selected the video.

1                   18. The system of claim 16 wherein:

2                   the cable television service provider stores the selected video on a  
3 video server for subsequent delivery from the video server to the television via the  
4 cable television network.

1                   19. The system of claim 16 wherein:  
2                   the cable television service provider delivers the selected video to a  
3 video recorder associated with the television via the cable television network for the  
4 subscriber to subsequently view on the television.

1                   20. The system of claim 16 wherein:  
2                   the subscriber performs a key word search using the personal  
3 computer in order to select a video from the content provider website for delivery  
4 to the subscriber.

1                   21. The system of claim 16 wherein:  
2                   the subscriber uses the personal computer to browse categories listed  
3 in the content provider website in order to select a video from the content provider  
4 website for delivery to the subscriber.

1                   22. The system of claim 16 wherein:  
2                   the content provider provides an identification identifying the  
3 subscriber along with the selected video to the cable television service provider;  
4                   wherein the cable television service provider uses the identification  
5 in order to deliver the selected video to the television via the cable television  
6 network.

1                   23. The system of claim 16 wherein:  
2                   the content provider provides descriptive information identifying the  
3 selected video along with the selected video to the cable television service provider  
4 for use by the cable television service provider.

1                   24. The system of claim 16 wherein:

2                   the cable television service provider bills the subscriber for the  
3 selected video on behalf of the content provider.

1                   25. The system of claim 16 wherein:  
2                   the subscriber has a subscription with the cable television service  
3 provider to select videos from the content provider website for delivery to the  
4 subscriber, wherein the cable television service provider bills the subscriber for the  
5 subscription.

1                   26. The system of claim 16 wherein:  
2                   the personal computer and the television are remote from one another  
3 and are in indirect communication with one another via the Internet and the cable  
4 television network.

1                   27. The system of claim 16 further comprising:  
2                   a cable television service provider Internet website, wherein the  
3 subscriber uses the personal computer to register a video interest profile on the cable  
4 television service provider website;  
5                   wherein the content provider communicates information to the cable  
6 television service provider regarding videos available for delivery from the content  
7 providers to the subscriber;  
8                   wherein the cable television service provider compares the  
9 information regarding the available videos with the video interest profile;  
10                  wherein the cable television service provider sends an email to the  
11 subscriber containing information regarding the available videos which correspond  
12 to the video interest profile.

1                   28. The system of claim 27 wherein:  
2                   the subscriber uses the personal computer to transmit a delivery  
3 request to the content provider via the Internet for a video identified in the email;  
4                   wherein in response to the request, the cable television service  
5 provider receives the requested video from the content provider and then delivers

6 the requested video to the television via the cable television network for the  
7 subscriber to view on the television.

1 29. The system of claim 16 wherein:  
2 the subscriber uses the personal computer to register a video interest  
3 profile on the content provider website;  
4 wherein the content provider sends an email to the subscriber via the  
5 Internet regarding videos which correspond to the video interest profile and which  
6 are available for delivery from the content provider to the subscriber.

1 30. The system of claim 29 wherein:  
2 the subscriber uses the personal computer to transmit a delivery  
3 request to the content provider via the Internet for a video identified in the email;  
4 wherein in response to the request, the cable television service  
5 provider receives the requested video from the content provider and then delivers  
6 the requested video to the television via the cable television network for the  
7 subscriber to view on the television.

1 31. A video-on-demand method for use with a personal computer  
2 connected to the Internet, and for use with a television associated with a subscriber  
3 of a cable television service provider and connected to a cable television service  
4 provider via a cable television network, the method comprising:  
5 providing a content provider Internet website listing videos available  
6 for delivery from a third party content provider to a subscriber of the cable  
7 television service provider;  
8 the subscriber using the personal computer to select a video from the  
9 content provider website for delivery to the subscriber;  
10 communicating the selected video from the content provider to the  
11 cable television service provider; and  
12 delivering the selected video from the cable television service  
13 provider to the television via the cable television network for the subscriber to view  
14 on the television.

1                   32. The method of claim 31 wherein:  
2                   delivering the selected video includes streaming the selected video  
3 from the cable television service provider to the television via the cable television  
4 network immediately after the subscriber has selected the video.

1                   33. The method of claim 31 further comprising:  
2                   storing the selected video on a video server of the cable television  
3 service provider for subsequent delivery;  
4                   wherein delivering the selected video includes subsequently delivering  
5 the selected video from the video server to the television via the cable television  
6 network.

1                   34. The method of claim 31 wherein:  
2                   delivering the selected video includes delivering the selected video  
3 to a video recorder associated with the television via the cable television network for  
4 the subscriber to subsequently view on the television.

1                   35. The method of claim 31 wherein:  
2                   the subscriber using the personal computer includes the subscriber  
3 performing a key word search using the personal computer in order to select a video  
4 from the content provider website for delivery to the subscriber.

1                   36. The method of claim 31 wherein:  
2                   the subscriber using the personal computer includes the subscriber  
3 using the personal computer to browse categories listed in the content provider  
4 website in order to select videos from the content provider website for delivery to  
5 the subscriber.

1                   37. The method of claim 31 wherein:  
2                   communicating the selected video from the content provider to the  
3 cable television service provider includes communicating an identification  
4 identifying the subscriber along with the selected video from the content provider  
5 to the cable television service provider;



6                    wherein delivering the selected video includes using the identification  
7                    in order to deliver the selected video to the television via the cable television  
8                    network.

1                    38. The method of claim 31 wherein:  
2                    the content provider provides descriptive information identifying the  
3                    selected video along with the selected video to the cable television service provider  
4                    for use by the cable television service provider.

1                    39. The method of claim 31 further comprising:  
2                    the cable television service provider billing the subscriber for the  
3                    selected video on behalf of the content provider.

1                    40. The method of claim 31 further comprising:  
2                    the subscriber obtaining a subscription with the cable television  
3                    service provider to select videos from the content provider website for delivery to  
4                    the subscriber; and  
5                    the cable television service provider billing the subscriber for the  
6                    subscription.

1                    41. The method of claim 31 wherein:  
2                    the personal computer and the television are remote from one another  
3                    and are in indirect communication with one another via the Internet and the cable  
4                    television network.

1                    42. The method of claim 31 further comprising:  
2                    providing a cable television service provider Internet website;  
3                    the subscriber using the personal computer to register a video interest  
4                    profile on the cable television service provider website;  
5                    comparing information regarding videos available for delivery from  
6                    the content provider to the subscriber with the video interest profile; and

7 transferring an email to the personal computer containing information  
8 regarding the videos which correspond to the video interest profile and which are  
9 available for delivery from the content provider to the subscriber.

1 43. The method of claim 42 further comprising:  
2 the subscriber using the personal computer to transmit a delivery  
3 request to the content provider via the Internet for a video identified in the email;  
4 in response to the request, communicating the requested video from  
5 the content provider to the cable television service provider, and then delivering the  
6 requested video from the cable television service provider to the television via the  
7 cable television network for the subscriber to view on the television.

1 44. The method of claim 31 further comprising:  
2 the subscriber using the personal computer to register a video interest  
3 profile on the content provider website;  
4 sending an email to the subscriber regarding videos which correspond  
5 to the video interest profile and which are available for delivery from the content  
6 provider to the subscriber.

1 45. The method of claim 44 further comprising:  
2 the subscriber using the personal computer to transmit a delivery  
3 request to the content provider via the Internet for a video identified in the email;  
4 in response to the request, communicating the requested video from  
5 the content provider to the cable television service provider, and then delivering the  
6 requested video from the cable television service provider to the television via the  
7 cable television network for the subscriber to view on the television.

1 46. A video-on-demand system for use with a personal computer  
2 connected to the Internet, the system comprising:  
3 a cable television service provider having a cable television network  
4 connected to a television of a subscriber;  
5 an Internet website, wherein the subscriber uses the personal  
6 computer to register a video interest profile on the website; and

7 a third party content provider which provides information regarding  
8 videos available for delivery from the content provider to the television of the  
9 subscriber via the cable television network;

10 wherein at least one of the cable television service provider and the  
11 content provider compares the information regarding the available videos with the  
12 video interest profile and then sends an email to the subscriber via the Internet, the  
13 email containing information regarding the available videos which correspond to the  
14 video interest profile.

1 47. The system of claim 46 wherein:

2 the subscriber uses the personal computer to transmit a delivery  
3 request to at least one of the cable television service provider and the content  
4 provider via the Internet for a video identified in the email;

5 wherein in response to the request, the cable television service  
6 provider receives the requested video from the content provider and then delivers  
7 the requested video to the television via the cable television network for the  
8 subscriber to view on the television.

1 48. The system of claim 46 wherein:

2 the website is the Internet website of the content provider.

1 49. The system of claim 46 wherein:

2 the website is the Internet website of the cable television service  
3 provider.

1 50. The system of claim 46 further comprising:

2 the website lists videos available for delivery from the content  
3 provider to the subscriber, wherein the subscriber uses the personal computer to  
4 select a video from the for delivery from the content provider to the subscriber; and

5 wherein in response to the request, the cable television service  
6 provider receives the selected video from the content provider and then delivers the  
7 selected video to the television via the cable television network for the subscriber  
8 to view on the television.

1                   51. A video-on-demand method for use with a personal computer  
2 connected to the Internet and for use with a cable television service provider having  
3 a cable television network connected to a television of a subscriber, the method  
4 comprising:  
5                   providing an Internet website;  
6                   the subscriber using the personal computer to register a video interest  
7 profile on the website;  
8                   providing information regarding videos available for delivery from  
9 a content provider to the television of the subscriber via the cable television  
10 network;  
11                  comparing information regarding the available videos with the video  
12 interest profile; and  
13                  sending an email to the subscriber via the Internet, the email  
14 containing information regarding the videos which correspond to the video interest  
15 profile.

1                   52. The system of claim 51 further comprising:  
2                   the subscriber using the personal computer to transmit a delivery  
3 request to at least one of the cable television service provider and the content  
4 provider via the Internet for a video identified in the email;  
5                   in response to the request, transferring the requested video from the  
6 content provider to the cable television service provider, and then delivering the  
7 requested video to the television via the cable television network for the subscriber  
8 to view on the television.

1                   53. The method of claim 52 wherein:  
2                   the website is the Internet website of the content provider.

1                   54. The method of claim 52 wherein:  
2                   the website is the Internet website of the cable television service  
3 provider.

1                    55. The system of claim 52 further comprising:  
2                    listing videos available for delivery from the content provider to the  
3 subscriber on the website;  
4                    the subscriber using the personal computer to select a video from the  
5 content provider website for delivery from the content provider to the subscriber;  
6                    communicating the selected video from the content provider to the  
7 cable television service provider; and  
8                    delivering the selected video to the television via the cable television  
9 network for the subscriber to view on the television.